

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 06532 261223Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 ACDA-12 /090 W
-----057462 261543Z /50

R 260623Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1192
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCONSUL MADRAS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 6532

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORT, IN, PK
SUBJECT: REPORT THAT INDIA MAY SEEK WITHDRAWAL OF UN OBSERVERS
IN KASHMIR

1. ACCORDING TO A REPORT IN THE APRIL 23 "TRIBUNE" OF CHANDI-
GARH, THE GOI HOME MINISTRY HAS RECOMMENDED TO THE MINISTRY OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (MEA) CLOSING THE OFFICES OF THE 11-MEMBER UN
MILITARY OBSERVER GROUP IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR. A QUESTION IN
PARLIAMENT APRIL 20 ON THIS SUBJECT ELICITED AN EVASIVE REPLY
FROM THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

2. THE "TRIBUNE" REPORTED THAT THE HOME MINISTRY OBJECTED TO
THE "UNNECESSARY INVOLVEMENT" OF UN OBSERVERS IN TRANSMITTING
MEMORANDA FROM PRO-BHUTTO DEMONSTRATORS IN SRINAGAR LAST MONTH TO
BROADCASTING AGENCIES IN THE US AND THE UK. ARGUING THAT UN
OBSERVERS WERE "IRRELEVANT". IN THE FACE OF INDIA'S AND PAKISTAN'S
COMMITMENT TO RESOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS BILATERALLY, THE HOME MINISTRY
IS SAID TO HAVE SUGGESTED THAT MEA TAKE THIS MATTER UP WITH
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UN HEADQUARTERS.

3. THE "TRIBUNE" THINKS IT LIKELY THAT INDIA WILL RAISE THIS
ISSUE DURING PAKISTAN CMLA ZIA'S VISIT TO INDIA, SINCE REMOVING
THE UN OBSERVERS INVOLVES BOTH SIDES OF THE LINE OF CONTROL.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS AN OLD ISSUE, THOUGH TO OUR KNOWLEDGE IT

HAS NOT BEEN ACTIVE HERE IN RECENT YEARS. WE RECALL THAT WHEN SENATOR PERCY VISITED INDIA IN 1974, THE GOI SOUGHT TO IMPRESS ON HIM THEIR FEELING THAT THE UNMOGIP CONTINGENT SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN. WE ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH ANY RECENT MOVES BY ANY ELEMENTS OF THE GOI ON THE MATTER, AND CANNOT CONFIRM THE "TRIBUNE" REPORT OF ALLEGED IMPROPER BEHAVIOR BY UNMOGIP IN SRINAGAR LAST MONTH. OUR ASSUMPTION HERE IS THAT IF THE GOI DID BRING UP THE ISSUE WITH THE PAKS, THE GOP WOULD OPPOSE THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE CONTINGENT ON GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD BE ANOTHER, UNWELCOME STEP IN REMOVING THE KASHMIR ISSUE FROM THE WORLD'S AGENDA. WE'D APPRECIATE WHATEVER INFORMATION AND COMMENT EMBASSY ISLAMABAD MAY HAVE
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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